

Received

NOV 23 2011

Office of PAGR

A 2012-84

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November 16, 2011 NOV 29 P 12: 21

RECEIVED

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To Whom it may concern:

A determination has been made by the U.S. Postal Service to close our local post office here in Mount Union, Iowa. I am served by the Mount Union post office and am filing this appeal.

The U.S. Postal Service needs to make some big changes to keep running, as I heard on the news that they have lost five billion dollars this last year. If the company that I work for had done that, I would have been laid off within a month and they would have made some drastic changes, and I realize that you folks need to make some changes. I empathize with you and therefore have some suggestions to help your bottom line.

The world has changed a lot in the last generation, and the correspondence that use to be carried by the postal service is now mostly carried via telephone or the internet, so your volume of first class letters has declined significantly. Although we are a small community, many of your patrons frequent the post office here in Mount Union, and the convenience of being able to buy stamps or mail parcels is greatly appreciated. Many folks here in town use Ebay and receive packages via the post office. Having a package sit in a hot outdoor mailbox during the summer could damage merchandise. If we lose a shipment of vitamins due to the heat, for the next shipment, we will specify UPS or Fedex, and you will lose that business. I know the argument is that having the mail sent to a mailbox will serve the purpose same as the local post office, but if it really was as good as having a local office, it would have been set up that way from the beginning. Also, the estimated annual savings of \$40,000 was based on the wages of a postmaster. We haven't had a postmaster since 2007, we have only had fill in people who make less money. Your savings will be less than \$40,000, and you probably will lose more business if the post office closes.

What to do? You really do need to save a lot of money to keep going, and we do need a postal service. Here is my suggestion: reduce days of delivery. Four days a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday would be sufficient. Possibly three days a week would be good, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. I think the four day work week might fly; people who now work five days a week would work four, but keep their health insurance just like before. Employees will bring a little less home each payday, but get a bigger refund on their taxes. If someone takes a vacation, you will pay less overtime to cover the schedule, as someone will want to pick up the fifth day for straight wages. The bills that come now on Wednesday can wait til Thursday, as can my shipment of vitamins from Swanson Vitamins. Yes, it will take an act of congress, but I'll write to my congressman and senators on your behalf, and I bet a lot of other people would too.

Thank you for your consideration.


Ben B. Johnson